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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 AL-HARETH AL-BUSTANI,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 SEAN B. ALGER, et al.,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. C22-5238JLR

ORDER

15 On November 30, 2023, counsel for Plaintiff Al-Hareth Al-Bustani, Susan L.
16 Ford, notified the court via email that Mr. Al-Bustani and Defendants Sean B. Alger and
17 SB Alger Studio Productions, LLC (together, the “Alger Defendants”) were engaged in a
18 discovery dispute. (12/4/23 Min. Order (Dkt. # 123) at 1.) According to Ms. Ford, the
19 Alger Defendants objected to answering in full Mr. Al-Bustani’s interrogatories based on
20 the limits imposed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33(a)(1). (*Id.* at 1-2); *see also* Fed.
21 R. Civ. P. 33(a)(1) (“Unless otherwise stipulated or ordered by the court, a party may
22 serve on any other party no more than 25 written interrogatories, including all discrete

1 subparts.”). The court entered a minute order (1) directing the parties to file one-page
2 letter briefs setting forth their respective positions on their dispute by no later than
3 December 8, 2023, and (2) instructing that the court would rule on the dispute in a written
4 order. (12/4/23 Min. Order at 2.) On December 8, 2023, however, the parties filed a
5 stipulation indicating that they had “agreed to avoid further process in exchange for a
6 commitment by the [Alger Defendants] to provide complete responses to Plaintiff’s
7 outstanding interrogatories on December 11, 2023.” (Stip. (Dkt. # 128).)

8 On December 18, 2023, Ms. Ford again contacted the court via email and
9 informed the court that she intends to file a motion for sanctions against the Alger
10 Defendants. According to Ms. Ford, the Alger Defendants have failed to abide by their
11 stipulation because they have not provided complete interrogatory responses and instead
12 continue to object to the number of interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33(a)(1). In addition,
13 Ms. Ford alleges that the Alger Defendants (1) have not provided complete, legible, and
14 Bates-labeled documents in response to Mr. Al-Bustani’s requests for production, and
15 (2) have failed to remit payment of attorney’s fees as required by the court’s October 25,
16 2023 order. (*See* 10/25/2023 Order (Dkt. # 115) at 8-9 (granting Mr. Al-Bustani’s
17 motion for attorney’s fees and ordering the Alger Defendants to remit payment of
18 \$2,246.00 to Ms. Ford).)

19 In an effort to expediently resolve the parties’ dispute, the court ORDERS as
20 follows:

21 1. The court previously ruled that the Alger Defendants have waived
22 objections to Mr. Al-Bustani’s discovery requests. (9/22/23 Min. Entry (Dkt. # 110)

1 (ruling that the Alger Defendants waived objections and ordering them to respond to Mr.
2 Al-Bustani's discovery requests by no later than October 6, 2023).) Accordingly, the
3 Alger Defendants must provide full and complete responses, without objection, to Mr.
4 Al-Bustani's interrogatories by no later than **January 5, 2024**.

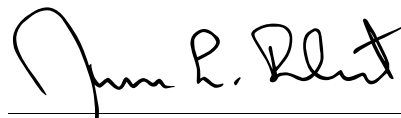
5 2. Mr. Al-Bustani shall provide the Alger Defendants a list of documents that
6 he asserts are not complete and/or legible by no later than **January 5, 2024**. The Alger
7 Defendants shall provide complete and legible copies of the deficient documents
8 identified by Mr. Al-Bustani, without objection, by no later than **January 12, 2024**.

9 3. The Alger Defendants shall remit payment of \$2,246.00 to Ms. Ford by no
10 later than **January 12, 2024**. (See 10/25/2023 Order at 8-9.) Alternatively, the Alger
11 Defendants must SHOW CAUSE by no later than **January 12, 2024** why they cannot
12 remit payment by that date.

13 4. The Alger Defendants are advised that failure to fully comply with this
14 order may result in sanctions up to and including the entry of default in Mr. Al-Bustani's
15 favor.

16 5. The court GRANTS Mr. Al-Bustani leave to file a motion for sanctions
17 after January 5, 2024, in the event that the Alger Defendants fail to fully comply with this
18 order.

19 Dated this 21st day of December, 2023.

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21 JAMES L. ROBART
22 United States District Judge